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Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area



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Parking Lot and I-84 Deceleration Lane Construction Begins on the Sandy River Delta

HOOD RIVER, June 9, 2008 – On June 14, 2008, the Oregon National Guard, Engineering Company #224 from Albany, OR will begin construction of a new parking area and access road for the Sandy River Delta. The Oregon Department of Transportation will also begin reconstruction of the I-84 deceleration lane and off ramp at Exit #18 on June 28, 2008. The Oregon National Guard is working in partnership with the USDA Forest Service, Oregon Department of Transportation, and the Confluence Project. The parking area will be moved from its present location adjacent to the I-84 off ramp to approximately 400 feet north and east. It will be designed to accommodate approximately 100 cars and will provide restroom facilities. The deceleration lane and off ramp improvements will enhance safety for the public exiting I-84 and accessing the new parking area.

Construction of the deceleration lane and congestion from construction equipment may result in intermittent closures of the Delta to all recreation access, however the Forest Service and Oregon Department of Transportation are working together to minimize these impacts to recreationist. Construction of the deceleration lane, new parking area and access road is expected to be completed by mid August, 2008.

These new facilities will also provide access to the Confluence Project's elliptical bird blind designed by renowned artist and architect Maya Lin (currently under construction). This unique design includes vertical wood slats inscribed with the 134 species of plants and animals Lewis and Clark documented on their historic journey. The artwork will serve as a lasting reminder of the interaction between humans and nature and a model for connecting people with the natural world.

The Confluence project is an initiative to reclaim, transform and reimagine seven places in the Columbia River Basin along the Lewis and Clark Expedition trail through permanent art installations by Maya Lin. Each of these seven places is located where waterways merge or traditional peoples have gathered. "Through Maya Lin's creative interventions, these seven sites will now offer new points of

encounter between the natural world and the built environment, the past and the present, for peoples of all backgrounds,” said Jane Jacobsen, Executive Director of the Confluence Project.”

The Sandy River Delta, also known as the “1000 Acres”, comprises 1,400 acres at the confluence of the Sandy and Columbia Rivers. The Delta was acquired by the USDA Forest Service, Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area in 1991. For more information regarding potential closures and delays please call (541) 308-1700 or visit www.fs.fed.us/r6/columbia.

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